

ROUTER MONITORING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data transmission system for exchanging packetized data between any IP host selected from a cluster of IP hosts, each host having at least an IP layer, a network layer, and a plurality of workstations coupled by an intermediary of an IP network. The IP hosts are coupled to the IP network via a layer 2 network such as a LAN interfacing the IP network by a set of routers and a network dispatcher that receives all incoming data flow and dispatches the data to the cluster of hosts. The data transmission system comprises at least a monitoring device included in the cluster of hosts where the monitoring device is operable to monitor the availability of candidate routers selected from the set of possible routers. The monitoring device also is operable for broadcasting router availability information to each host in the cluster of hosts via the network dispatcher.

:\ODMA\PCDOCS\AUSTIN_1\132809\1
1097:7036/P124US